



Pen City Current

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EMPTY NEST

By Curt Swarm



Dissecting Da Vinci - A book review

Ginnie gave me the book, "Leonardo Da Vinci" by Walter Isaacson for Christmas. It's a large, heavy, pretty book. But don't let the size fool you. Its pages are of high-quality, thick, satin paper because of all the artwork. Of the 600 pages, the last 100 or so are index and notes, etc. My arms soon became tired from holding the book. It's probably not a book you would take on an airplane.

Then Ginnie started reading it also, and there was a conflict as to who was going to get to read it and when. I solved the problem by ordering the book on Kindle. Ginnie snarked that the artwork wouldn't be near the quality on Kindle. I demonstrated to her how on Kindle I could "blow up" or "spread apart" a picture, say for example "Mona Lisa's" eyeball, and study Da Vinci's brush strokes. She was soon asking to see such-and-such a picture on Kindle. Thus, the Twenty-First-Century debate as to which is superior, Kindle or "real" books, ended in a draw, for us anyway. While waiting to have our car lubed, I was able to whip out my smart phone and continue to read Da Vinci, the smart phone having tracked the last page read on Kindle. Ginnie was quite jealous. Shows-to-go-you.

What can I say about Da Vinci except read the book and become enlightened. He was a self-educated, illegitimate child whose genius rivals that of Einstein, Michelangelo and Steve Jobs all rolled into one. As a child, a bird flew into his crib and flapped its tail, perhaps signifying the touch of a muse. To say he was a Renaissance Man, combining art, science, medicine, mathematics, astronomy, you-name-it, doesn't do him justice. Not only did he paint the most famous pieces of art in the world—the "Mona Lisa" and the "Last Supper"—but he swam underwater to compare the fin movement of fish to the wing movement of birds. He invented the first helicopter, and made water-powered clocks and musical instruments. He studied the tongue of a woodpecker. He dissected facial muscles to know how to make the most famous smile in the world—that of Mona Lisa. He studied light and shadows and perspective. Upon meeting a

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Courtesy photo

Test Kitchen Education Foundation's Kumar Wickramasingha accepts a \$5000 donation from dentist Dr. Mark & Kara Pothitakis' family. "They are a true advocate of education and believe in the vision and the mission of the foundation, Wickramasingha said. "Thank you for giving our kids beautiful smiles in many ways! Pothitakis said it was honor to help the program. "I've known and respected Kumar and his vision and my family is just happy to help a great program that helps kids get help with scholarships, preparation for college, etc, in this setting," said Pothitakis.

FMCH gets Blue Distinction award

BY PCC STAFF

FORT MADISON - Wellmark Blue Cross® and Blue Shield® has recognized Fort Madison Community Hospital (FMCH) with a Blue Distinction® Center+ for Maternity Care designation as part of the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program. Blue Distinction Centers are nationally designated hospitals that show expertise in delivering improved patient safety and better health outcomes, based on objective measures that were developed with input from the medical community.



Nearly four million babies are born in the U.S. annually, making childbirth the most common cause of hospitalization, and cesarean sections are the most common operating room procedures, according to National Centers for Health Statistics and the Agency for Health care Research & Quality (AHRQ). Reducing early elective delivery

is an area of focus for the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). According to Health Affairs, elective inductions result in more cesarean deliveries and a longer maternal hospitalization.

The Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care program evalu-

ates hospitals on quality measures for vaginal and cesarean delivery. To receive a Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care designation, a hospital must also demonstrate cost-efficiency.

Quality is key: Only those hospitals that first meet Blue Distinction's nationally-established, objective quality measures will be considered for designation as a Blue Distinction Center+.

FMCH is proud to be recognized by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield for meeting the

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CURRENT-LEE

Rainbolt family holding benefit to offset son's final expenses

FORT MADISON - A benefit is being planned for expenses related to the death of Dakotah Rainbolt on March 3, 2018 at the Fort Madison Eagles, 4822 Avenue O. from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

As part of the benefit a \$10 raffle is being held for a quarter side of beef from Dave's Old Fashioned Meats. Contact Gary's Trading Post at 319-561-1132 for more information or tickets.

Glo Crazy for Education run set for April 7

FORT MADISON - A 5K run/walk will be held on April 7 at Baxter Sports Complex beginning at 8 p.m. Proceeds from the event will go to the Elliott Test Kitchen in Fort Madison. The event is being put on by Fort Madison service clubs including Fort Madison Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary clubs as well as the Fort Madison High School key club. Registration can be done at www.pencitycurrent.com/glo-crazy/.



Pen City Current will list your event in this highly visible CURRENT-LEE section in increments of 25 words for \$15. Add a photo for \$5. Non-profit organizations are eligible for the reduced rate of \$10 per 25 words and \$3 per photo. To place your listing, click here or call Lee at (319)371.4125.

#HyperLocalSuperFresh

Da Vinci applied intellect to his imagination

SWARM - Continued from Page 1

centenarian who died, Leonardo promptly dissected the corpse and discovered atherosclerosis. He wondered why the sky was blue and how fossils came to be on mountain tops. He studied the flow of blood through the heart and discovered what made heart valves open and close. (I always figured heart valves operated like sluice gates. Nope.) Heart valves open and close due to eddies in the blood. He was not in a hurry. His paintings took years. "Mona Lisa," who originally had eyebrows, took 16 years to paint, and then he still wasn't finished. By the way, the reason Mona Lisa's eyes seem to follow the viewer around the room are because Leonardo painted her right pupil larger than the left.

He discovered that sound and light travel in waves, as do emotions. He craved education for the sake of education and, being left handed, he wrote from the right hand of the page to the left in mirror script. He used drawing to help him think. Leonardo had a sense of humor. When he was painting "The Last Supper," the Duke of Milan was on his case to hurry up and finish it. Leonardo politely told the Duke to back off, or his face might wind up as the face of Judas.

In the words of the author, Walter Isaacson, "What made Leonardo a genius, what set him apart from people who are merely extraordinarily smart, was creativity, the ability to apply imagination to intellect."



He "tried to know all there was to know about everything that could be known."

The reason we know all this is because of paper and Da Vinci's copious notes that are still being discovered today. Would he approve of the Kindle, that may not be around ten years from now? Once again Isaacson states, "The willingness to surrender preconceptions was key to his creativity."

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, email him at curtswarm@yahoo.com or find him on Face Book. Curt's stories are also read at 106.3 FM in Farmington.

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5-DAY WEATHER FORECAST

MON 26 Feb	Clear Skies High - 46.7° F Low - 34.8° F
TUE 27 Feb	Clear Skies High - 54.0° F Low - 43.7° F
WED 28 Feb	Light Rain High - 53.5° F Low - 43.5° F
THU 01 Mar	Moderate Rain High - 45.5° F Low - 37.2° F
FRI 02 Mar	Clear Skies High - 39.4° F Low - 26.7° F

OpenWeatherMap

Two heads are better than one.

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Wednesdays
7:00pm

1135 Ave. E • Wednesday ~ Saturday 5:00pm

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Exchange of Proposals
DATE: MONDAY,
February 26, 2018
LOCATION:
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA 52639
AGENDA

CONVENING TIME:
10:00 A.M.
 10:00 a.m. Exchange of Initial Proposals with Secondary Roads Union
 Closed Session to follow:
 Negotiating sessions are exempt from Chapter 21 Open Meetings

CONVENING TIME:
12:00 P.M.
 12:00 p.m. Exchange of Initial Proposals with Administrative Union
 Closed Session to follow:
 Negotiating sessions are exempt from Chapter 21 Open Meetings

PUBLIC NOTICE
Lee County, Iowa
Board of Supervisors
Regular Meeting
Agenda
DATE: TUESDAY,
February 27, 2018
MEETING
CONVENING TIME:
9:00 A.M.
LOCATION:
2530 255th Street,
Montrose, IA 52639
AGENDA

Pledge of Allegiance
 Approve Agenda
 9:01 a.m. Public Hearing to Approve FY19 County Budget
 Consider Approval of Resolution Approving FY19 County Budget
 Consider Approval of Tuesday, February 20, 2018 Board Minutes
 Consider Approval of Claims
 Public Input
 Consider Approval to Replace Class III Maintenance Position in Secondary Roads
 Consider Approval of Resolution Removing Mobile Homes from Tax System
 Consider Approval of Tax Abatement Resolution
 Personnel Actions:
 A. Transfer-Secondary Roads
 Commission or Committee Reports
 Adjourn

PUBLIC MEETING - CITIZENS WELCOME

Workshop to follow
 Vision and hearing assistance available upon request

Contact Title VI Administrator
 319-372-3705

County Website:
www.leecounty.org

HELP WANTED

HTC Foundation DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

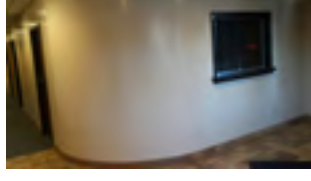
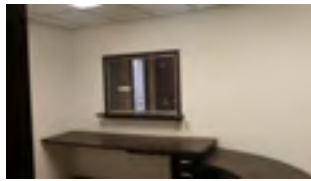
The Holy Trinity Catholic Schools Foundation Board is looking to hire a Development Director. This individual will work with the Board to grow the assets managed by the Foundation. Email resumes to Brian Foecke at bjfoecke@ft.nyl.com. Resumes are due by March 15th.



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From the Front/Scene Around Town



It's Time To Celebrate New Beginnings! Twenty8Teen

Thank you to all of our customers who helped us reduce our environmental footprint in 2017!

Great River Regional Waste Authority is looking forward to continuing our efforts to manage our environmental footprint and help educate our communities on ways to help in 2018!

Things to remember in 2018 when recycling:
Please do not place plastic bags in recycling bins.

- Rinse & Clean all food jars and cans before placing in recycling bins.**
- Flatten boxes for better storage and volume reduction. *Empty all boxes before recycling.**
- Place all recyclable products loose in bins.**
- Do not recycle wrapping paper.**

Properly dispose of all electronics and household hazardous waste. [Click Here](#) for more guidance!

For your convenience:

- Convenient Drop-Off Locations in 10 cities
- Curbside Recycling Bins are available at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations
- HHW Collection Available by appointment during regular business hours at our Ft. Madison and Keokuk locations



Great River Regional Waste Authority

Ft. Madison Main Office: 2092 303rd Ave, Fort Madison, IA, 1-319-372-6140

Keokuk Transfer Station: 111 Carbide Lane, Keokuk, IA, 1-319-524-6175

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It was standing room only at this year's annual Pheasant's Forever dinner at the Comfort Inn and Suites on Saturday. Above, attendees talk with the hosts of the gun raffle and, in the background, silent auction bids are taken on more than 50 gift baskets.

FMCH honor showcases commitment to Birthplace

AWARD - Continued from Page 1

rigorous Blue Distinction Center+ quality and cost selection criteria for maternity care set by the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program.

"We are committed to providing the highest quality care for our families, from their first visit with one of our Obstetricians in our Women's Center to the arrival of their newborn in the Birthplace. We are honored to be part of this exciting time in our patient's lives and want to make the experience as positive and safe as possible. Being recognized by Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield with this designation validates our efforts," commented Heather Stevenson, FMCH Maternal Child Director.

Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) companies across the nation have recognized more than 1,000 hospitals as Blue Distinction Centers+ for Maternity Care. Hospitals recognized with this designation are assessed using a combination of quality information supplied by hospitals and cost measures derived from BCBS companies' medical claims.

Since 2006, the Blue Distinction Specialty Care program has helped patients find quality specialty care in the areas of bariatric surgery, cancer care, cardiac care, maternity care, knee and hip replacements, spine surgery, and transplants, while encouraging health care professionals to improve the care they deliver. Research shows that, compared to other hospitals, those designated as Blue Distinction Centers demonstrate better quality and improved outcomes for patients. On average, Blue Distinction Centers+ are also 20 percent more cost-efficient than non-Blue Distinction Center+ designated hospitals.

For more information about the program and for a complete listing of the designated facilities, please visit www.bcbs.com/bluedistinction.



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Lotto America™	Wed & Sat	8:59 pm	10:00 pm
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Pick 3 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm
Pick 4 - Midday	Daily	Noon	12:20 pm
Pick 4 - Evening	Daily	9:40 pm	10:00 pm



2/25 MID-DAY
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2/25 EVENING
2 9 6



2/25 MID-DAY
1 2 2 3

2/25 EVENING
9 6 9 6

Pen City Current encourages you to play responsibly.